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Labour Force Statistics Highlights

A release from the Province of British Columbia's central statistical agency

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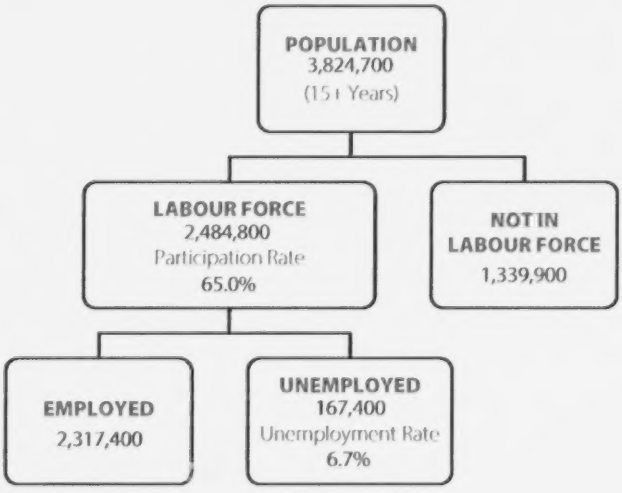
- The unemployment rate decreased 0.3 percentage points to 6.7 percent.
- The participation rate decreased 0.5 percentage points to 65.0 percent.
- The employment rate decreased 0.3 percentage points to 60.6 percent.

B.C. HIGHLIGHTS

In October, B.C.'s unemployment rate dropped by 0.3 percentage points to 6.7%. This was primarily driven by the labour force (-18,600) contracting, as the number of persons employed also declined (-10,900). Compared to the same time last year, employment in B.C. is up by 29,500 jobs (+1.3%—the same as the national average).

Part-time employment increased in October (+5,400), abating some of the decline in full-time employment (-16,200). Nearly the entire decline in full-time employment was among men (-15,200).



B.C. & WEST

The unemployment rate in B.C. is the 4th lowest in Canada—after Alberta (4.5%), Saskatchewan (4.7%), and Manitoba (5.6%). Amongst these provinces growth in employment has been fastest over the last 12 months in Saskatchewan (+2.3%), followed by Alberta (+1.7%), B.C. (+1.3%), and Manitoba (+0.3%).

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

At the national level, employment in October was unchanged and the unemployment rate remained at 7.4%. Employment rose in Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador, and fell in B.C. and Manitoba. There was little change in the other provinces.

Note: All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated

GENDER

In October, employment for men (aged 25 and over) declined by 4,900 jobs, while the labour force contracted by 8,700. As a result, the unemployment rate for men dropped by 0.3 percentage points to 5.7%. The unemployment rate for women (aged 25 and over) remained unchanged in October at 5.4%, with virtually no change in employment or the labour force.

YOUTH

The unemployment rate for youth (aged 15 to 24) declined in October by 0.6 percentage points to 13.4%. Compared to this time last year, the unemployment rate for B.C.'s youth increased by 0.7 percentage points, mainly due to fewer youth participating in the labour force. While the labour force among those aged 15 to 24 declined by 8,400 compared to 12 month ago, the number of unemployed youth has only increased by 1,400.

ABORIGINAL AND IMMIGRANT POPULATION

Driven by a large contraction in the number of unemployed, October marks the second month the Aboriginal population's unemployment rate (11.1%, 3-month moving average, unadjusted) contracted (-0.3 percentage points). When compared to last October, the current Aboriginal population's unemployment rate is far lower (-2.6 percentage points).

In October, the unemployment rate (3-month moving average, unadjusted), of the immigrant population climbed to 7.1%, as a result of a decline in employment that was greater than the drop in the labour force (-5,400 versus -5,200 respectively). This is the second straight month of increases to the unemployment rate. Compared to the same time last year the unemployment rate in October was slightly higher (+0.2 percentage points).

INDUSTRY

In October, the goods-producing sector reversed most of the gains from the previous month, shedding 12,000 jobs. Construction was the only industry to post jobs gains (+3,200), while declines were seen in manufacturing (-8,300), and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-3,300). Since October of last year, the goods-producing sector has posted job gains of 12,500 (+2.8%).

Employment in the services-producing sector rose by 1,100 jobs in October. Gains were seen in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+10,300), "other" services (+8,000), and information, culture and recreation (+5,000). The largest losses were in health care and social assistance (-6,500), wholesale and retail trade (-5,600), and professional, scientific and technical services (-5,000). Compared to October 2011, 17,100 more people are employed in the services-producing sector (+0.9%).

Click here to visit the Labour Force Statistics page on the BC Stats website

DID YOU KNOW?

The employment rate is the number of individuals employed expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 and over.

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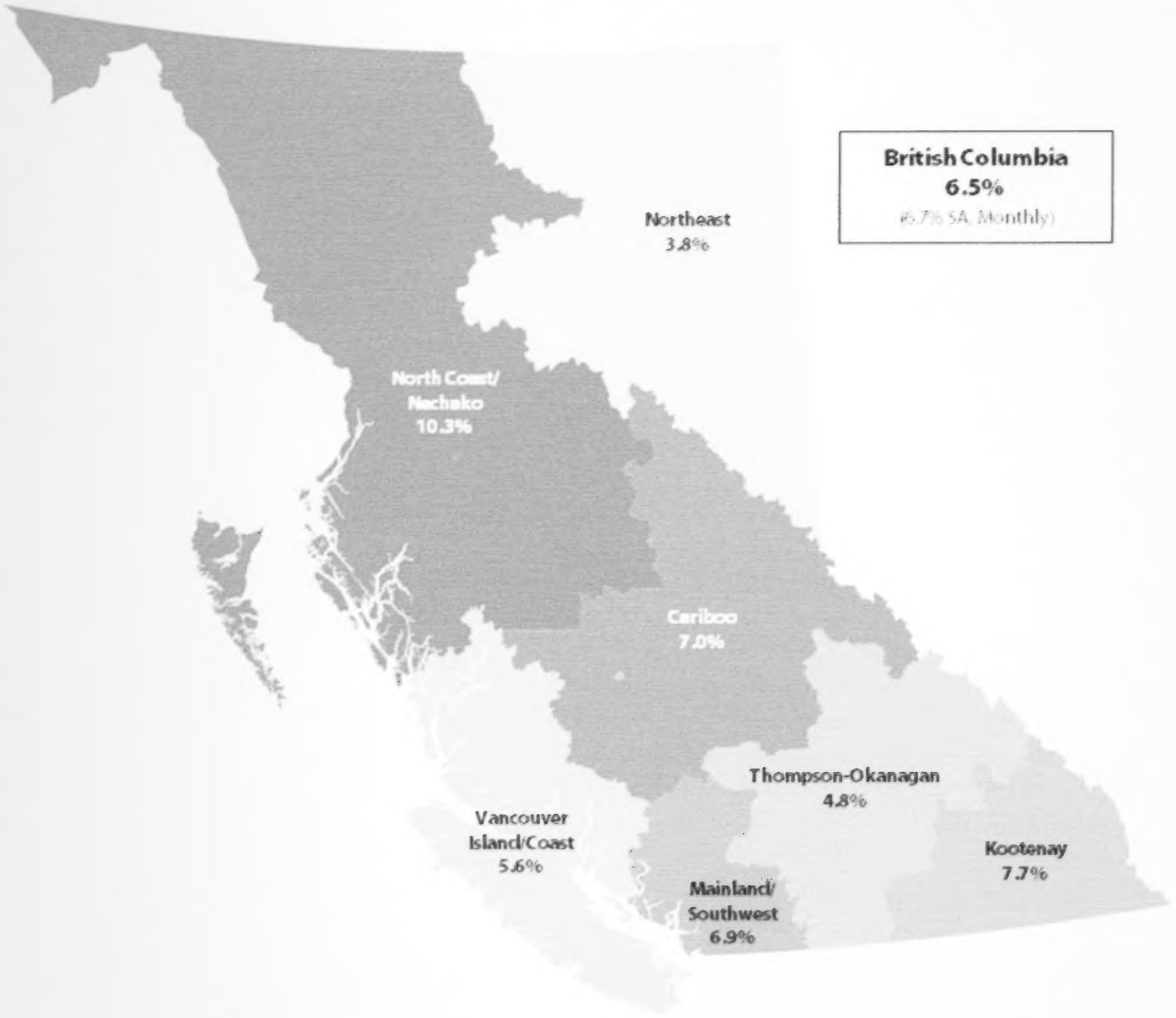
British Columbia Unemployment Rates
October 2012
Unadjusted, 3 Month Moving Average



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey